

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement drawing sheet includes changes to FIG. 5 as described in the "Remarks" section of this amendment. This attached sheet replaces the originally filed sheet containing FIG. 5.

Attachment: Replacement sheet containing FIG. 5.

REMARKS

The statement by the Examiner that claims 3-6, 8-11 and 13 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged by the Applicant.

Claims 1-3 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been included. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show element 533 in FIG. 5 as described in the specification. Applicant has attached a corrected replacement drawing sheet amending FIG. 5 to include the label "533" in accordance with the present specification. The amendment to FIG. 5 addresses the concerns raised in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,623)("Tsang"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "a voltage boosting circuit, said voltage boosting circuit producing a boosted reset voltage on a reset line at a level higher than a power supply output voltage level, said voltage boosting circuit comprising a first capacitor, and at least one switching element." Claim 1 further recites "a voltage protection circuit, said voltage protection circuit being connected to said reset line and protecting at least one transistor against being forward biased by said boosted reset voltage." Applicant respectfully submits that Tsang fails to disclose such limitations.

Tsang relates to an active pixel sensor that realizes in a single chip employing standard CMOS processes, an image capturing function and various signal processing

functions. According to the Office Action, Tsang discloses boosting the reset signal to a high voltage level that is more than the threshold level of the power supply voltage. Additionally, the Office Action cites Tsang for teaching that clamping the reverse-biased voltage across the photodiode so that it is no less than a predetermined voltage.

However, assuming these statements to be true, Tsang still does not disclose “[a] voltage boosting circuit comprising a first capacitor and at least one switching element.” Nor does Tsang disclose “[a] voltage protection circuit being connected to said reset line and protecting at least one transistor against being forward biased by said boosted reset voltage.” Thus, Tsang fails to disclose all limitations of the claim 1 invention. Claims 2, 7 and 12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1.

Claim 14 recites a method comprising the steps of “increasing a level of an output reset signal to form a boosted level voltage, which is greater than a power supply voltage; isolating said boosted level voltage; and biasing said boosted level voltage to produce an output voltage which related to an amount of said bias added to an amount of said power supply voltage.” Applicant respectfully submits that Tsang does not disclose such a method.

As stated above, Tsang may disclose boosting the reset signal to high voltage level that is higher than the threshold of the power supply voltage, however, Tsang does not disclose the steps of “isolating said output reset signal to form a boosted voltage; and biasing said output reset signal to produce an output voltage which is increased to a boosted voltage related to an amount of said bias added to an amount of said power supply voltage.” At most, Tsang simply discloses a basic reset operation. Therefore, Tsang fails to disclose all limitations of claim 14.

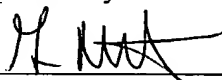
Accordingly, Tsang fails to establish a prima facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 3-6, 8-11 and 13 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 3-6, 8-11 and 13 depend from claim 1. Claim 1 is believed to be allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-6, 8-11 and 13 no longer depend from rejected base claims. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn and claims 3-6, 8-11 and 13 allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: June 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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